

Word Sort Ideas for Vocabulary Words

Teach One, Taught One

Students look at the words and find one they know and can teach someone else. They “teach” their word to another student, then the other student “teaches” their word. (You will want to give directions like “explain it and give an example,” etc.

“Words I Know” Sorts

Students preview words and divide them into categories to determine how well they know each word. For example: Words I know/Words I don’t know; Words I know, Words I’ve heard of, Words I don’t know, etc.

Connect Two

Tell students to pick up one word they know. Then tell them to look at the rest of the words and pick up another word that is related to it. It doesn’t matter which two words they choose, as long as they can give a reasonable explanation *why* they connected them.

Open Sorts

In an open sort, students define the categories. Keep it simple at first. Prompts can be as follows:

- Can you find more than two words that are related? Why are they related?
- Which words are related? Why?
- If you could sort these words into two categories, what would they be?
- Group the words into categories. Label each group.

Closed Sorts

In a closed sort, the teacher defines the categories. Closed sorts work best after a few days of open sorts.

- Pull out all of the words that have to do with _____?
- Which words do *not* have to do with _____?
- Which of the words did we talk about yesterday?
- Arrange the words in order from first to last. Which word did you put first/last? Why?